John McPeak  
215F Eggers Hall  
Office Phone: 443-6146  
web page: [http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/jomcpeak/](http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/jomcpeak/)  
e-mail: jomcpeak@maxwell.syr.edu  
Office Hours: M W 10:30-12:00.

Course Description:  
This course will familiarize the student with a variety of alternative theories on what causes (or hinders) economic development. Different strategies and outcomes from a variety of settings will be presented and discussed. The goal of the course is to develop the student’s understanding of international, national, sectoral, local, and household level issues related to economic development and the language used by economists to discuss these issues. Special attention will be given to the following questions: how do we explain economic growth?; how do we measure and understand poverty and poverty dynamics? what are the environmental implications of economic development?; and how are urban/industrial needs balanced against rural/agricultural needs in development? The course is aimed at students who have taken a basic economic course, and effort will be made to stress how economic theory relates to development policy.

Materials:  

Articles linked to in this syllabus  
Others will be available as pdf files.

Grading:  
Two exams, 30 points each, total of 60 points.  
10 homeworks, 2 points each, total of 20 points  
Presentation (poster or power point), 5 points.  
Term paper, 15 points.

Exams.  
There will be two exams, one in class covering the first section of the course, the second during the final exam period covering the second half of the course. They will be closed book exams, and are accorded the same number of points. The final is not comprehensive. A calculator can be used in the class. If you have a multi function calculator, it is not acceptable to use this for any purpose other than basic calculations during the exam. Non native English speakers are allowed to bring in a dictionary to aid in translation if they so desire.
**Homework:**
Students will select a country to follow throughout the semester. They will research this country for each of the topical themes in class. A one to two page brief on the status and major issues facing the country in terms of this topic will be required. Each brief is worth two points.

**Presentation:** The last three classes of the semester will be devoted to students presenting the findings of their research. Students will have the choice of presenting a 10 minute power point summary of their findings or preparing a poster. More details will follow as we get further into the semester.

**Term paper.**
The student will be responsible for a term paper of 15-20 page length (12 point, double spaced, standard academic references). The paper will be a statement of the status and prospects of the particular issue and at the appropriate level in the country the student selects. The paper should highlight: one, what is the current status and what are the major issues facing the sector on which you are focusing; two, how did the sector come to be in this situation from a historical perspective, and three, what are the priorities in this sector and for the future and how do you suggest decision makers go about addressing these priorities. The student should illustrate that these insights were developed by conducting extensive research on their chosen country and sector – this is a research paper. The paper is due by May 1st, following the last class.

**Note on academic honesty:**
Syracuse University policy requires students to "exhibit honesty in all academic endeavors. Cheating in any form is not tolerated, nor is assisting another person to cheat. The submission of any work by a student is taken as a guarantee that the thoughts and expressions in it are the student's own except when properly credited to another. Violations of this principle include giving or receiving aid in an exam or where otherwise prohibited, fraud, plagiarism, or any other deceptive act in connection with academic work. Plagiarism is the representation of another's words, ideas, programs, formulae, opinions, or other products of work as one's own, either overtly or by failing to attribute them to their true source" (Syracuse University Bulletin 2003-2004: p. 2).
The PA office has suggested students can refer to the following web site if in doubt about the rules concerning how to cite properly to avoid inadvertently committing plagiarism.
:http://www.essex.ac.uk/sociology/course_materials/doc_down/PhD_handbook.pdf
Not only will you truly disappoint me if you violate the policy on academic honesty, but you will lose any chance of me ever writing a letter of reference for you that does not refer to the incident, and by your own actions will have placed your professional career in jeopardy.

**Office Hours:** Noted above are my office hours. I am pretty open to scheduling times outside of these if you contact me by e-mail to make other arrangements if these times do not work for you.
First six weeks of the course (January 14-February 20): Development, Growth, International Institutions, Trade, and Aid.

**January 14, 16**

*Development Economics – what is it and what do we mean when we say it is a developing country?*


Chapter 1. “Economics, Institutions, and Development”

Chapter 2. “Comparative Development”

**January 23, 28, 30, February 4**

*Development Theory*

Chapter 3. “Classic Theories of Economic Development”

Easterly, William (2002). Chapters 2 and 3 of *The Elusive Quest for Growth*.


Chapter 4. “Contemporary Models of Development and Underdevelopment”


HW #1 Growth experience in your country due February 6th

**February 6, 11**

*International Issues 1*


HW #2 Trade and your country due February 13th.
February 13, 18, 20

*International Issues 2, Development Policy*


Chapter 15. “Foreign Finance, Investment, and Aid”

HW #3. Aid / investment / financial restructuring in your country due February 20th.

**February 25th**: Exam covering first part of the course

February 27, March 4, 6

*Poverty and Inequality*

Chapter 5. “Poverty, Inequality, and Development”


HW #4. Poverty / inequality due March 6th.

**Spring Break, no class March 11, 13.**

March 18, 20.

*Population issues.*


March 25, 27, April 1

*Urbanization, Migration, Rural sector, Agriculture topics*

Chapter 7. “Urbanization and Rural-Urban migration”
Chapter 9. “Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development”


HW #6. Urbanization / migration / informal sector due April 3rd
HW #7. Agriculture / rural development due April 3rd

April 3,8

Human Capital I and II: Education and Health
Chapter 9. “Human Capital”


HW #8 education and
HW #9 health due April 10th

April 10, 15.

Environment and Development


HW #10. Environmental issues due April 17th

April 17, 22, 24, 29

In class presentations

Final Exam: TBA

Final is an exam covering the second half of the course.